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E. Smith  
12/16/99  
PATENT  
0303-0409P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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✓ Applicant: Satoru ICHIHASHI et al.

✓ Appl. No.: 09/362,406

Group: 3752

Group 3700

✓ Filed: July 28, 1999

Examiner: UNASSIGNED

✓ For: STRENGTH-ENHANCING APPARATUS FOR METAL  
PART

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION  
BUT BEFORE FINAL REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE  
OR CONCURRENTLY WITH A RULE 53(d) CPA APPLICATION)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

October 28, 1999

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby  
submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration  
by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted  
for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-1449(s),  
attached hereto.

II. COPIES (check at least one box)

- a. ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each  
U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or  
that portion which caused it to be listed; and  
(iii) all other information or that portion which  
caused it to be listed.
- b. ☐ Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-  
1449 are not enclosed because they were cited in  
the International Search Report and copies should  
already be in the PTO file. If copies are needed,  
please contact the undersigned.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

a. ☐ **DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

The attached patents, publications, or other information in the English language do not require a statement of relevancy.

b. ☒ **DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

Japanese Patent Publication Nos. 5-21711, 9-248761 and 9-248765 are listed on pages 1, 2 and 4 of the specification, further attached are english language abstracts

c. ☐ **ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT**

An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(A)(3).

d. ☐ **OTHER**

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

FEEES

IV. ☒ THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b):  
(check one box)

- a. ☒ within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or statement is required.
- b. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or statement is required.
- c. ☐ before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or statement is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no statement has been made, charge our deposit account in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. ☐ THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2)).

- a. ☐ No statement; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- or
- b. ☐ See the statement below. No fee is required.

VI. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby states that

- a. ☐ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- c. ☐ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)


- ☐ A check in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed for the above-identified fee.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for the above-indicated fee. A triplicate copy of this paper is attached.
- ☒ No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
James M. Slattery, #28,380

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Enclosures: ☒ PTO-1449  
☒ Documents  
☐ Foreign Search Report  
☐ Fee  
☐ Other:

(Rev. 03/30/99)